

Franklin County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan

January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2011

Prepared By:

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SECTION II

COMMUNITY TEAM

**Franklin County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan
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II. Community Team Section

- a. The name of the Community Team is Good Beginnings in Franklin County. Formed in 1995 by individuals and community service providers, this team brings much needed services into Franklin County to assist families reach their potential. Since its inception Good Beginnings in Franklin County has met once per month. Their current structure is;

Board of Directors				
Officers				
Committees				
<u>TeamMates</u>	<u>After School</u>	<u>Wellness</u>	<u>Parenting</u>	<u>Mental Health</u>
<u>Board</u>	<u>Program</u>		<u>Professional</u>	<u>Health Fairs</u>
<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Director</u>			<u>Annual</u>
<u>Mentors</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>			<u>High School</u>
<u>Students</u>				<u>Middle School</u>
				<u>All-Stars</u>
				<u>Facilitator</u>

- b. **Community Team Members of Good Beginnings in Franklin County**

Name	Capacity	Affiliation	Address	Phone
Ryan Adam	Community Volunteer/TeamMate	Student	403 18 th Ave Franklin	470-0824
Susan Adam	Community Volunteer	Concerned Parent	403 18 th Ave Franklin	470-0824
Marie Amick	TeamMate volunteer	Concerned Citizen	PO Box 56	425-8277
Sheryl Anderson	Board Vice-President	Local Business woman	616 15 th Ave Franklin	425-6250/6895
Jerry Archer	Team Support	Franklin County Sheriff	Franklin County Courthouse	425-6231
Debbie Bartels	Afterschool Program volunteer	Concerned Citizen	618 15 th Ave Franklin	425-9980
Randy Bislow	TeamMate mentor	Concerned Citizen	1467 F Rd PO Box 312 Franklin	308-470-0707
Marge Blank	Board Treasurer	Retired Business woman	1817 M St Franklin	425-3475
Linea Bonham	Community volunteer	Franklin teacher	943 Hwy 10 Franklin	425-3452
Darrel Buschkoetter	Community volunteer	Self-employed	2482 X Rd, Lawrence	402-756-7070
Kathy Murphy-Buschkoetter, APRN	Board Member/ TeamMates Board Chair, Health Fair co-	FCMH, Pool Medical Clinic	2482 X Rd, Lawrence	425-6249

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	Chair			
Julie Bydalek, DON, FCMH	Health Fairs co-chair	Franklin Co Memorial Hospital	120 Brierwood Franklin	425-3760
Mark Bydalek	Community volunteer	Local Businessman	120 Brierwood Franklin	425-3760
Megan Bydalek	Community youth volunteer	Student	120 Brierwood Franklin	425-3760
Joy Chrisman	Community volunteer	Patron	212 10 th Ave Franklin	425-3410
Denise Cline	Teammate's Board Treasurer	Local Farm wife	377 39 Rd, Riverton	402-746-2848
Sydney Conner	Teammate's mentor	Hutchins Funeral Home	1402 M Street Franklin	425-6872
Mike Dallmann	Community Volunteer	Farmer	1178 Q Rd Franklin	425-3053
Dianna DeJonge	Community Volunteer	Teacher	1206 O Rd Franklin	425-6804
Marci Duffy	Teammates' mentor	Concerned Citizen	809 14 th Ave Franklin	425-6071
Heather Eastin	Coalition Member	Two Rivers Health Department	701 4 th Ave, Suite 1, Holdrege	995-4778
Lori Fouts	Community volunteer	Medical Employee	770 40 Rd Naponee	269-2023
First United Methodist Church	Fiduciary agent		1302 M St Franklin	425-6874
Franklin Co 4-H	Team Support	Franklin County Youth Organization	Franklin County Courthouse	425-6277
Franklin County Medical Services	Liability Coverage	FCMH	1406 Q, PO Box 315, Franklin	425-6221
Franklin Co Rural Health Clinics	Team Support	FCMH	1406 Q, PO Box 315, Franklin	425-6221
Franklin High School Honor Society	Youth Leadership and volunteers for Afterschool program	Franklin Public Schools Youth Organization	1001 M St Franklin	425-6283
Franklin High School Basketball Team	Youth Fund Raising group	Franklin Public High School	1001 M St Franklin	425-6283
Franklin Public	Team Support	Franklin Public	1001 M ST	425-6283

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Schools		Schools	Franklin	
Franklin Teacher's Association	Team Support	Franklin Public School	1001 M Street Franklin	425-6283
Bonnie Fuerst, APRN	Coalition member-oversees LMHP	FCMH, Pool Medical Clinic	417 Sheppard Hildreth	938-5285
Nikki Gausman	Coalition Member	Director S.A.F.E. Center, Kearney	3710 Central Ave, Ste 10, Kearney	237-2599
Jerrell Gerdes	Coalition Member	CEO, FCMH	1406 Q, PO Box 315, Franklin	425-6221
Craig Gilpin	Community Volunteer	Retired Teacher	916 K St Franklin	425-3663
Jessica Goosic	Community Volunteer	Business employee	1235 M Rd Franklin	425-3900
Alan Gottula	Teammate's Scholarship Chairman	High School Counselor, Franklin Public School	1001 M St Franklin	425-6283
Dianna Hammer	Community volunteer	School employee	410 19 th Ave Franklin	425-3327
Renee Haussermann	Community volunteer	Media Specialist	868 Ridge Rd Bloomington	775-2285
Steve & Susie Headrick	TeamMate mentor/ community volunteers	Nursing center & City Employee	907-17 th Ave Franklin	425-8215
Rhonda Herrick	After School Director/coalition member	Extension Assistant, UN-L Cooperative Extension	Box 95, Franklin	425-6536
Windy Ingram	Community volunteer	FSA employee	1101 O St Franklin	425-8202
Andrea Jackson	Community volunteer	Student	346 Gold Riverton	402-746-2935
Diane Jackson	Community volunteer	Medical employee	346 Gold Riverton	402-746-2935
Samantha Jackson	Community volunteer	Student	346 Gold Riverton	402-746-2935
Paula Jacobsen	Community volunteer	Funeral Home Employee	PO Box 182 Franklin	425-6589
Deb Jelken	Community volunteer	Medical employee	451 9 th Ave Franklin	425-3743
Beth Johnson	Community volunteer	Franklin elementary	409 18 th Ave Franklin	425-6037

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		teacher		
Dave Johnson	Community volunteer	Wilcox-Hildreth Teacher	409-18 th Ave Franklin	425-6037
Katie Johnson	Afterschool Coordinator	Concerned parent	1305 N St Franklin	402-984-1516
Lana Johnson	Community volunteer	E Free Church minister's wife	904 Fairway Franklin	425-8202
Janet Kahrs	Community volunteer	Concerned parent	573 F Rd Naponee	269-3491
Lori Kahrs	TeamMate mentor	Local business employee	864 Hwy 136 Bloomington	308-775-3170
Shelley Kahrs	TeamMate's board member/coalition member	Elementary School Principal	1001 M Street Franklin	425-6283
Jaynette Keim	Teammate's Board member	Retired business woman	974 Nebraska Ave Bloomington	775-9200
Neil Kloppenborg	Board member/Teammate's board member	First United Methodist Church Minister	1302 M St Franklin	425-6874
Terry Krohn	Coalition Member	Two Rivers Health Department Director	701 4 th Ave, Ste 1 Holdrege	995-4778
Tammy Kuhl	Community volunteer	Home health	1008 P Street Franklin	425-6058
Liesl Lucas	Community volunteer	Concerned parent	1703 M Street Franklin	425-3111
Mike Lucas	Team Support/Afterschool Program Transportation	Franklin Public Schools Superintendent	1001 M St Franklin	425-6283
Beverly McNiff	Board President/TeamMate's board Secretary & Coordinator	Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska	631-15 th Ave Franklin	425-3726
Stan Muir	TeamMate's mentor	City employee	1008 Fairway Dr Franklin	425-3347
Samantha Murphy	Community Volunteer	Concerned Youth	2482 X Rd Lawrence	402-756-7070
Savannah Murphy	Community Volunteer	Concerned Youth	2482 X Rd Lawrence	402-756-7070
Sharry Nielsen	Board Secretary	UN-L Cooperative	Franklin County Courthouse	425-6277

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		Extension Educator		
Tina Olerich	Community Volunteer	Medical personnel	404 E Main Naponee	308-269-2021
Barb Overleese	Community Volunteer	Nursing Center, DON	906 Fairway Dr Franklin	425-3651
Darlene Overleese	TeamMate's board Member	Local business woman	2034 Hwy 136 Riverton	402-746-3339
Ed Putnam, LMHP	Coalition member	Licensed Mental health practitioner	Holdrege	
Connie Rocker	Community Volunteer	Franklin high Teacher	1612 P Street Franklin	425-6548
Cynthia Rubendall	Community Volunteer	Concerned parent	1109 J Street Franklin	425-6537
Whitney Rubendall	Community Volunteer	Concerned youth	1109 J Street Franklin	425-6537
Danielle Saathoff	Community Volunteer	Concerned youth	363 I Rd Naponee	269-2601
Kellyn Saathoff	Community Volunteer	Concerned youth	363 I Rd Naponee	269-2601
Peggy Schnuerle	Community Volunteer	Local Farm wife	638 E Rd Bloomington	308-775-2402
Rod Sindt	Community volunteer	Retired Farmer	216 J Rd Naponee	308-269-2975
Vicki Smith	Community volunteer	Concerned Youth	1308 M Street Franklin	425-3020
Vicky Splattstoesser	Community volunteer	Concerned Citizen	701-17 th Ave Franklin	425-3753
Peggy Vetter	Community volunteer	Medical personnel	1702 L Street Franklin	425-3027
Local VFW & American Legion	Site for Afterschool program	Local Civic Organization	618 15 th Ave Franklin	425-9980
Deanna Ward	Community volunteer	Retired business person	1202 L Street Franklin	425-3718
Deb Welton	Community volunteer	Concerned parent	PO Box 134 Franklin	308-470-1163
Mimi Wheeler	Community volunteer	Retired community member	1937 M Street Franklin	425-8587

Section III

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

Franklin County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan 2009 – 2011

A Franklin County Comprehensive Plan meeting was held to go over the Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool—updating it from the previous plan due to time constraints. Those present included local representatives from the Community Action Partnership, the Franklin County Extension Office, the area’s Public Health Department, the hospital (Director of Nursing and the Hospital Administrator), and the school (elementary principal).

Each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in Franklin County.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage, particularly since the last application of the Tool for the area. Not all decision points are commented on. An assessment of the Franklin County data has been completed as part of applying the Tool. Such data is referenced throughout this report when necessary to fully analyze a certain decision point.

See Appendix A

Section IV

Community Socio-Economics

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Franklin County is located in south-central Nebraska, the Republican River flows along its south border. Composed of 576 square miles, the county is dependent on agriculture for its economics. No manufacturing exists in the county. Irrigation concerns and water in the Republican River Basin is a major obstacle for the future, especially with law suits filed by the State of Kansas.

The county is served by State Highway 4, that centrally dissects the county east-west, Highway 136 (Heritage Highway) which follows the Republican River valley east-west, and Highway 10 which provides north-south transportation. Highway 10 connects to Interstate 80 at the Minden Interchange. Railroad transportation is provided by a per-need service through Burlington-Northern Railroad. This transportation is primarily for grain transportation. Air service is available in Kearney or Grand Island.

Points of Interest in the area include the Dupee Music Hall, constructed in 1902 in Franklin and the Franklin Academy constructed in 1881. Franklin County is some 20 miles from the geographic center of the USA. Heritage Highway is the name for Highway 136, offering collaborative events from historic Brownsville to Edison. Home on the Range Historical Site is 13 miles south of Franklin; this is the location where Dr. Brewster M. Highley wrote the words in a poem called “My Western Home”. Lookout Mountain is in Franklin County and was famous as a Pawnee Indian settlement. In Naponee, you will find the Naponee Octagon Church organized in 1881. This small town is also identified with actors David Janssen and Pierce Lyden. On the southwestern border of the county is Harlan County Reservoir, a recreational and tourism draw for the summer months.

Population of the county has steadily declined, the 2000 census being the last official count with 3,574. The county has experienced a negative population change of -18.3% (compared to +9.0% statewide) during 1980-2000. Estimates in 2007 place the population at 3,158. This would be 5.48 people per square mile in 2007.

Other quick facts reflecting the population race, ethnic, and age are reflected below:

White (Non-Hispanic) people represented 99.6% of the county population in 2000.

The population, aged 65+ represented 23.9% (compared to 13.6% statewide) of the population in 2000.

Age Nebraska 2000	Franklin County 1990	Franklin County 2000	
0-4	6.6%	5.2% (186)	6.8%
5-24	21.5%	23.8% (850)	29.7%
25-64	45.4%	47.1% (1,683)	49.9%
65-84	22.0%	19.9% (713)	11.6%
85+	4.5%	4.0% (142)	2.0%

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Franklin County economics are driven by Agricultural sector, as the largest employer within the county, followed by Local and State Government, Retail and Wholesale Trade, Health Care and Animal Husbandry and Livestock. Per capita income in 2000 was \$15,390 with estimate of \$25,764 at 2006. The median household income in 2000 was at \$29,304, with estimate of \$36,603 in 2006. Unemployment rates are historically low, ranging from 3.3% to 2.5%. Poverty rate is 13.2% in 2000, 4.5% above the Nebraska indicators. Significant decline in the number of farms is noted in Franklin County, statistics indicate 378 farms remain in 2002, compared to 1992 when 444 farms existed.

Education in Franklin County is available from a Kindergarten-12th grade center, Franklin Public School-a consolidated district, with attendance center in Franklin, Nebraska. 329 students in 2008, 98% white students with 44% eligible for free/reduced meals. A second school in Hildreth, a part of the Wilcox-Hildreth Public School, this consolidated school system has a middle school, grades 5-8, attendance center in Hildreth (Franklin County). 85 students, 51% Male and 49% Female. The attendance center has 98% white students with 32% of the students qualifying for free/reduced lunch. Central Community College provides attendance centers in the local schools; main campus is in Hastings, Nebraska. University of Nebraska at Kearney is 50 miles from Franklin. With Internet services expanded, the access to post-high school education is virtually unlimited.

In 2000, the official county census indicates that 14.2% of the residents aged 25 and older did not graduate from high school. The percentage of 7-12th graders who dropped out of school (2000-2001) is 0.8%. The percent of first births born to unmarried women, younger than 20, with less than a high school education (1997-2001) is 6.0%. Crime arrest rate per 1,000 populations (1999) is 30.8

Franklin County in a summarized statement can be identified as agriculture based economy, faced with an older population and a population with low incomes. Inflow of population to the eight communities in the county has been from Colorado and California, primarily population drawn by low cost housing. A large segment of the work force commutes to the City of Kearney for employment, estimated at 35% of the employed workers residing in the county. Education and health care services make the county stand out from comparative counties; the Franklin Public School received a Blue Ribbon “Award of Excellence” from President George Bush. Having medical facilities, hospital-nursing homes-assisted living-pharmacy-dentist, in a rural Nebraska county makes us unique.

Replacement population is required as our aging population is laid to rest. To recruit that replacement population means recruitment outside of Nebraska, this brings working families and creates more “latch-key” children when parents work outside the county. Many of the replacement population also resided in urban settings, presenting a culture shock when they reside in a small rural community.

Section V

Identified Priority Areas

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PRIORITY AREAS

Priority #1—Substance Abuse Prevention

General Description--More intensive focus that may be considered is an emphasis on underage drinking. Education programs may be coordinated for youth and for parents to change thinking in the community about underage drinking.

Relevant Data—Franklin County had three Minors in Possession in 2007. A survey done in December of 2008 among Franklin High School youth showed that Substance Abuse was the #1 issued identified by this age group. Twenty-four percent of Nebraska teens report having their first drink prior to age 13. Nebraska ranks ninth in the nation for teenage binge drinking 30% of Nebraska high school youth have had binge drinking in the past 30 days compared to 26% nationally.

Other contributing factors—A recent State Patrol effort ticketed 80% of the liquor sales establishments for selling to minors.

Priority #2—Enforcement of Rules and Laws

General Description—There is a law enforcement presence in Franklin County, but seemingly, a lack of eagerness to assist in following up with the juvenile through the system after the initial contact. Arrests and/or citations are rare. There is concern that there are no consequences for youth after an illegal act. It is important that law enforcement be included in coordinating efforts to improve the juvenile justice system in Franklin County. The formal juvenile justice system begins with law enforcement, so without their willingness to make the system better, it is difficult to improve the system. A coordinated, positive attempt with local law enforcement to develop a cooperative system of justice improvement is recommended.

Relevant Data- The statistics show the lack of relevant data. Which coorelates with the lack of enforcement of rules and laws.

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Priority #3 – Parental Involvement

General Description—Parental Involvement is an important part of any community and is no exception in Franklin County. Changing attitudes of parents and young adults can be particularly difficult—attitude change takes time and many focused efforts. Finding creative ways to involve parents in teenagers’ activities is a challenge, particularly to encourage participation as it cannot be forced. Communicating to parents so they know where they can turn for help and services for their children is also important.

Relevant data—Thirty-eight percent of Nebraska teens drank with an adult present(YRBS-2005). More than one out of five students surveyed or twenty-one percent drank at home with a parent’s permission. (2005YRBS). Franklin County has many prevention activities for youth, primarily through the schools. Good Beginnings in Franklin County has offered numerous parental education programs where low attendance has occurred. Participation of parents at Parent/Teacher Conferences was 52% in the Middle and High School.

Priority #4 – Anti-Social Behavior

General Description---Anti-Social behavior and anger management with youth is a significant issues, especially with the age of youth displaying this type of behavior is getting younger all the time. The Franklin school system has an alternative program for at-risk youth – about 1% of the student body. Continuing to develop and improve programs helping kids with anger management issues, anti-social behavior and bullying is important in prevention efforts.

Relevant data—According to the Franklin County Juvenile Court Report Ungovernable Behavior has tripled from 2005 to 2007. One third degree assault was also reported in 2007. Fifty-eight percent of high school youth surveyed at the Franklin Public Schools identified Bullying as one of the top three concerns that they face daily.

Section VI

Strategies

VI. STRATEGIES

Priority 1

Substance Abuse

Strategy 1 – A

Continue to provide structured educational opportunities that focus on positive behavior, as well as prevention programs focused on youth.

Stakeholders Involved

Youth involved in Programs

Parents involved in Programs

Community Volunteers

Community Organizations and Businesses

Activities:

1. Coordinate the delivery of substance abuse prevention education for youth involved in the Franklin After School Program.
 - A. All-Stars
 - B. Tobacco programming
2. Coordinate the delivery of substance abuse prevention education for youth in Franklin County.
 - A. Middle School Health Fairs
 - B. High School Health Fairs
 - C. Dare Program
 - D. Red Ribbon Week
3. Establish a annual drug free public commitment ceremony.

Timeline: April 2009-May 2011

Resources Required

Funding

Community Involvement

Volunteers

Program Materials

Staff Development

Expected Results

Youth will be more aware of substance abuse issues. Youth will be more likely to not drink, smoke or try illegal drugs.

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Strategy 1 – B

Continue to provide structured educational opportunities that focus on positive behavior, as well as prevention programs focused on parents and community.

Stakeholders Involved

Youth involved in Programs

Parents involved in Programs

Community Volunteers

Community Organizations and Businesses

Activities

1. Coordinate the delivery of substance abuse prevention education focusing on parental and adult responsibilities.
 - A. Initiate the Think Before You Wink Program
 - B. Encourage parent involvement at Red Ribbon Week
 - C. Provide education or awareness of the Dram Shop Law.

Timeline: September 2009-January 2011

Resources Required

Funding

Volunteers

Informational Materials

Expected Results

A decrease in the number of adults purchasing alcohol for youth in our area. A greater awareness of the dangers of providing alcohol to youth and the penalties for doing so.

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Priority 2

Enforcement of Rules and Laws

Strategy 2 – A

Increase awareness and responsibilities of service providers and juvenile justice system in relation with juvenile issues.

Stakeholders Involved

Law Enforcement
Community Members
Franklin Public Schools
Wilcox-Hildreth Schools

Activities:

1. Develop an advocacy group consisting of youth and adults to promote positive youth behaviors and enforcement of rules and laws.

Timeline: September 2009-May 2010

Resources Required

Funding
Community Members
Law Enforcement
Franklin Public Schools
Wilcox-Hildreth Schools

Expected Results

More awareness and involvement of community members in relation to alcohol and tobacco use.

A positive support group for law enforcement to carryout their responsibilities.

Strategy 2 – B

Increase communication between local establishments who sell alcohol and tobacco products

Stakeholders Involved

Local Business that sell alcohol and tobacco.
Law Enforcement
Community Members

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Activities:

1. Develop an awareness program for local businesses that sell alcohol or tobacco products on the dangers of underage drinking and tobacco use and the penalties of selling to minors.

Timeline: May 2009-January 2010

Resources Required

Funding
Training
Informational Materials

Expected Results

A decrease of local businesses that sell alcohol or tobacco to minors.

100% compliance in the next Nebraska State Patrol sting.

More awareness of the Dram Shop Law.

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Priority #3

Parental Involvement

Strategy 3-A

Strengthen personal parenting skills by providing opportunities for learning and improving parenting skills and by providing accessible parenting resources.

Stakeholders Involved

Parents

Youth

Ministerial Association

Community Members

Activities

1. Continue to provide parenting skills workshops within Franklin County.
2. Update the directory of resources available for parents to use.

Timeline: May 2009-December 2011

Resources Required

Funding

Volunteers

Educational Programs

Educators

Expected Results

Parents will increase their positive parenting skills.

Parents will become more involved in the community.

Strategy 3-B

Increase the number of parents and youth attending community sponsored events and programs for families.

Stakeholders Involved

Parents

Youth

Community Organizations

Activities

1. Publicize community events.

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2. Continue to provide family centered events.

Timeline: April 2009-December 2011

Resources Required

Funding

Parents

Community Members

Expected Results

Increase in the number of parents and youth attending community events. Increase in the number of parents involved in school activities.

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Priority #4

Anti-Social Behavior

Strategy 4- A

Positively impact youth who have displayed anti-social behaviors in their home and/or community.

Stakeholders Involved

Youth

Community Organizations

Franklin Public Schools

Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools

Activities:

1. Provide educational programming related to anti-social behaviors
 - A. Middle School and High School Health Fairs
 - B. Elementary School
 - C. Leadership Team Education
 - D. Local Churches
 - E. Community Organizations
 - F. After-School Programs
2. Provide a positive atmosphere in After-School Programs.

Timeline: April 2009-May 2010

Resources Required

Funding

Community Members

Franklin Public Schools

Wilcox-Hildreth Schools

Educational Materials

Expected Results

Decrease in the number of youth reporting bullying.

Youth displaying positive social behaviors.

Strategy 4-B

Increase awareness of how media impacts influences behavior.

Stakeholders Involved

Youth

Community Members

Community Organizations

Media Outlets

Activities

1. Develop educational program on how media influences behavior.
2. Develop a contest for youth to develop Public Service Announcements or advertisements promoting positive behavior.

Timeline: September 2009-December 2009

Resources Required

Funding

Educational Materials

Community Members

Expected Results

An increase awareness of how media influences behavior.

Appendix A

Community Planning Tool

Analysis tool

**Franklin County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan
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FRANKLIN COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS TOOL

(COMMUNITY PLANNING DECISION POINT ANALYSIS)

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the Tool where applicable.

Franklin County

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Each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in Franklin County.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage, particularly since the last application of the Tool for the area. Not all decision points are commented on. An assessment of the Franklin County data has been completed as part of applying the Tool. Such data is referenced throughout this report when necessary to fully analyze a certain decision point.

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**NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT -FRANKLIN COUNTY
(Nebraska Crime Commission)**

	2005	2006	2007
ARRESTS	0	6	4
OFFENSES			
1st/2nd Degree Assault	0	0	0
3rd Degree Assault	0	0	1
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	0	0
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	0
Drug - Felony	0	0	0
Theft > \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$1500	0	0	0
Theft < \$500	0	0	0
Theft < \$200	3	0	4
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	0	0	0
Major Trespass	2	0	0
Forgery - Misd - Major	0	0	0
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0
Disturbing Peace	0	0	0
Other Felony	0	0	0
Other Misdemeanor	5	0	1
Truancy	0	0	0
Ungovernable Behavior	1	1	3
Possession of Alcohol	2	4	3
Other Status	0	0	0
Neglect	1	3	0
Dependent	0	2	2
Other/Unknown	4	4	4
TOTAL	18	14	18

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Franklin County Data

Juvenile court offense data for each county and for Franklin County is provided for years 2005, 2006, and 2007 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)¹. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds.

In 2007, according to OJJDP at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/exapop/>, Franklin County had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 625, with 622 white, 0 black, 2 American Indian, and 1 Asian. In addition, 11 were Hispanic and 614 were Non-Hispanic.

¹

Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) and federal [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#).

Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. There data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

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Prevention Programs:

Franklin County has many prevention activities for youth, primarily through the schools. Programs include All-Stars (with drug and alcohol prevention); DARE for 6th graders; middle and high school health fairs with drug, alcohol, and tobacco education components; and various extra-curricular activities such as FFA, FCCLA, Science Club, Spanish Club, and Sports. Other programs include 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, an after school program for 2nd – 6th grades 2 days per week, Teammates, and church youth groups.

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Decision Points:

Arrest/Citation (Police/Law Enforcement)

Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, under which juvenile should be cited or arrested

Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult

Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release

Notes:

Arrests and convictions of juveniles rarely happen in Franklin County, generally, even if youth are caught doing something unlawful, like underage drinking. When there is a citation, it is almost always a “cite and release” situation. Youth are released to parents. The perception is that either law enforcement is not following through with reports or believes there is just not a problem to follow up on. The police work that investigates the situation and communication with the parents rarely occurs.

Initial Detention (Probation)

Whether juvenile should be detained or released

Notes:

Boys Town in Grand Island is utilized, but detention is very rarely needed.

Charge Juvenile (County Attorney)

Whether to prosecute juvenile

Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult

Offense(s) for which juvenile should be charged

Notes:

Because prosecution begins with citations and/or arrests being made, prosecutions do not occur often.

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Pre-Adjudication Detention (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication

Probable Cause Hearing (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court

Competency Evaluation (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings

Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts

Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by §43-247”

Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (PDI)

Notes:

There are very few youth on probation in Franklin County. If there are, it is not communicated with the school. If a PDI is ordered, the schools are either not contacted or they are not ordered very often.

Whether to order OJS evaluation

Whether to order a PDI and an OJS evaluation

Disposition (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether to place juvenile on probation

Whether to commit juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS)

Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS

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Notes:

Services available in Franklin County include an LMHP, mental health professional, that is available every Wednesday. Richard Young is also utilized for counseling, not necessarily in-patient admission. Two Rivers Public Health has mental health and substance abuse counseling in Holdrege that would be available to Franklin County as well.

Administrative Sanctions (Probation)

Whether to impose administrative sanctions

Motion to Revoke Probation (County Attorney)

Whether to file a motion to revoke probation

Modification/Revocation of Probation (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether to modify or revoke probation

Setting Aside Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)

Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment

Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS

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Summary:

Franklin County community members interested in the area's juvenile services system are a committed group, who want to make things better by working together to address the needs of youth across the continuum of services—from prevention to sanctions, when appropriate.

As a result of the discussion had for the juvenile system analysis, the following may be considered:

1) Substance Abuse Prevention

Prevention efforts should continue. An initial, more intensive focus that may be considered is an emphasis on underage drinking. Education programs may be coordinated for youth and for parents to change thinking in the community about underage drinking. Other drug education programs could follow.

2) Enforcement of Rules and Laws

There is a law enforcement presence in Franklin County, but seemingly, a lack of eagerness to assist in following up with the juvenile through the system after the initial contact. Arrests and/or citations are rare. There is concern that there are no consequences for youth after an illegal act.

It is important that law enforcement be included in coordinating efforts to improve the juvenile justice system in Franklin County. The formal juvenile justice system begins with law enforcement, so without their willingness to make the system better, it is difficult to improve the system. A coordinated, positive attempt with local law enforcement to develop a cooperative system of justice improvement is recommended.

3) Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is as important as it ever was to community members in Franklin County. Changing attitudes of parents and young adults can be particularly difficult—attitude change takes time and many focused efforts. Finding creative ways to involve parents in teenagers' activities is a challenge, particularly to encourage participation as it cannot be forced. Communicating to parents so they know where they can turn for help and services for their children is also important.

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One area to possibly start in educating parents and young adults might be in the area of underage drinking, beginning with the new state dram shop laws. “Think Before you Wink” is an example of a program for parents.

4) Anti-Social Behavior

Anti-social behavior and anger management with youth is a significant issue, especially with the age of youth displaying this type of behavior is getting younger all the time. The Franklin school system has an alternative program for at-risk youth—about 1% of the student body. Continuing to develop and improve programs helping kids with anger management issues, anti-social behavior, and bullying is important in prevention efforts.